REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The present response is submitted to place the present application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action. More specifically, in the outstanding Office Action claim 4 was objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5-9 are also allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that indication of the allowable subject matter.

By the present response independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations from allowable dependent claim 4. Thereby, amended independent claim 1 is believed to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

Claims 2-4 are also canceled by the present response without prejudice and claim 8 depends from now allowable independent claim 1.

By the present response applicants submit each pending claim recites subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

Application No. 09/971,704 Reply to Office Action of July 24, 2006

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Customer Number} \\ 22850 \end{array}$

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 06/04)

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Eckhard H. Kuesters Attorney of Record Registration No. 28,870

Surinder Sachar Registration No. 34,423